

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-9 and 12-18 have been allowed. Claims 10 and 19-20 are amended. Claims 23-25 are new. In view of at least the following, all currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and, therefore, the Applicants' attorney requests that the Examiner withdraw all outstanding rejections. *However, if after considering this response the Examiner does not allow all of the claims, the Applicants' attorney requests that the Examiner contact him to schedule a telephone interview to further the prosecution of this application.*

Rejection of claims 10-11 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Filiol et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,553, "Filiol")

Claim 10

Claim 10 as amended recites a first circuit operable to produce a first signal that represents a phase difference between a feedback signal and a reference signal, and a second circuit operable to produce a second signal, the second signal being controlled to vary over time, and to combine the second signal with the first signal to produce a control signal having an instantaneous value substantially equal to zero.

For example, referring to FIGS. 2a-2c and paragraphs 32-36 of the patent application, in an embodiment a first circuit **205** is operable to produce a first signal **Ip** that represents the phase difference between a feedback signal **Vb** and a reference signal **Vr**. A second (conditioning) circuit **235** is operable to produce a second signal **Ic** that is controlled to vary over time (FIG. 2c), and to combine that second signal **Ic** with the first signal **Ip** to produce a control signal **Id** having an

instantaneous value substantially equal to zero. As Figure 2c illustrates, in the embodiment being described the conditioning current **I_c** consists of a series of pulses and thus the conditioning current varies over time. See paragraph [35]. Referring to paragraphs [34]-[35], by controlling the conditioning signal **I_c** to vary over time in this manner, the control signal **I_d** may exhibit less variation and ripple than would otherwise occur.

In contrast, Filiol does not teach producing a control signal having an instantaneous value substantially equal to zero by combining a first signal that represents a phase difference between a feedback signal and a reference signal with a second signal that is controlled to vary over time. On page 2 of the instant OA, the Examiner asserts that Filiol discloses adding a signal *idc* to the “regular error signal from the loop filter” to produce a control signal with an instantaneous value of zero. However, the signal *idc* taught by Filiol is simply a flat DC current provided by current source 90, and is not controlled to vary over time.

Filiol does not satisfy the limitations of claim 10 as amended, and Applicants' attorney therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Claims 11 and 21-22

These claims are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from claim 10.

Claim 19

Claim 19 as amended recites producing a first signal indicating a phase difference between a feedback signal and a reference signal, producing a second signal that is controlled to vary over time, and producing a control signal having an instantaneous value substantially equal to zero by combining the first and second signals.

In contrast, and as analogously discussed above with respect to claim 10,

Filiol does not disclose producing a first signal indicating a phase difference between a feedback signal and a reference signal, producing a second signal that is controlled to vary over time, and producing a control signal having an instantaneous value substantially equal to zero by combining the first and second signals. The signal *idc* added by Filiol to the control signal fed to the loop filter is not controlled to vary over time.

Filiol does not satisfy the limitations of claim 19, and Applicants' attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection accordingly.

Claim 20

Claim 20 as amended is patentable for reasons substantially similar to those discussed with respect to amended claim 10.

Conclusion

The absence of additional patentability arguments should not be construed as either a disclaimer of such arguments or that such arguments are not believed to be meritorious. Claims 1-9 have been allowed by the Examiner. In light of at least the reasons discussed herein, existing claims 1-9, 11-18 and 21-22 and amended claims 10 and 19-20 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further questions about the application, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (425) 455-5575 to resolve the matter.

In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, payment for those fees has been enclosed. Should further payment be required to cover such fees you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

Respectfully submitted,

GRAYBEAL JACKSON LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James J. Carter", is written over a horizontal dotted line.

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